Operation of small aircrafts

2854. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to induct small jet engine aircrafts in Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air India to operate between smaller and less economical routes like North-Eastern States and Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, Islands, etc.;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been formed for the purchase of small aircrafts;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government feel that it would be feasible and economical to operate small but good jet engine aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Air India has no plans to operate on domestic sector. Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL). a subsidiary of Indian Airlines, has already inducted 4 ATR-42-320 (turbo prop-48 seater) aircraft on dry lease basis for a period of 5 years for improving air connectivity in the North-Eastern Region with financial assistance from North-Eastern Council (NEC).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. A Committee has, however, been constituted to study and identify routes/aircraft for enhancing regional connectivity on non-metro routes within the country.

Rajkot-Delhi Air Service

2855. SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to start Rajkot-Delhi flight;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has started any flight on this route;

(c) the number of passengers who have travelled by air from Rajkot and Surat to various parts of the country during the last three years by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways.

(d) whether the proposal as mentioned in (a) above is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, no scheduled operator including private scheduled operator is operating any service to/from Surat. The details of number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Jet Airways from Rajkot to Mumbai during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Passengers Indian Airlines/Alliance Air	Jet Airways
2000-01	22323	28193
2001-02	14810	33787
2002-03	9036	46405

(d) and (e) Operational constraints and commercial considerations do not permit Indian Airlines to introduce direct services between Delhi and Rajkot. However, airline operators are free to operate on any sector subject to traffic demand and compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Air India in Low Cost Airlines Business

2856. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that premium airlines around the world are entering the low cost airlines business by launching no frill subsidiaries